

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A core-shell particle which has a core, a first shell and, ~~where appropriate~~ optionally, a second shell, where:

- i) the core ~~encompasses~~ comprises, based on its total weight, at least 75.0 % by weight of (meth)acrylate repeat units;
- ii) the first shell has a glass transition temperature below 30° C;
- iii) the second shell ~~present where appropriate~~ optionally comprises ~~encompasses~~, based on its total weight, at least 75.0 % by weight of (meth)acrylate repeat units; wherein
- iv) the first shell ~~encompasses~~ comprises, based on its total weight, the following constituents;

E) from 92.0 to 98.0 % by weight of (meth)acrylate repeat units and

F) from 2.0 to 8.0 % by weight of styrenic repeat units of the general formula (I)



where each of the radicals R¹ to R⁵, independently of the others, is hydrogen, a halogen, a C₁₋₆-alkyl group or a C₂₋₆-alkenyl group and the radical R⁶ is hydrogen or an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

where the percentages by weight of E) and F) give a total of 100.0 % by weight,

and in that

- v) the radius of the core-shell particle inclusive of any second shell present, measured by the Coulter method, is in the range from above 160.0 to 240.0 nm.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The core-shell particle according to Claim 1, wherein, based in each case on its total weight,

- i) the proportion of the core is ranges from 5.0 to 50.0 % by weight,
- ii) the proportion of the first shell is ranges from 20.0 to 75.0 % by weight and
- iii) the proportion of the second shell is ranges from 0.0 to 50.0 % by weight,

where the percentages by weight give a total of 100.0 % by weight.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The core-shell particle according to Claim 1, wherein the core ~~encompasses~~ comprises, based in each case on its total weight,

- A) from 50.0 to 99.9 % by weight of alkyl methacrylate repeat units having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical,
- B) from 0.0 to 40.0 % by weight of alkyl acrylate repeat units having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical,
- C) from 0.1 to 2.0 % by weight, of crosslinking repeat units and
- D) from 0.0 to 8.0 % by weight of styrene repeat units of the ~~general~~ formula (I),

where the percentages by weight give a total of 100 % by weight.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The core-shell particle according to Claim 3, wherein the core comprises, based in each case on its total weight, from 80.0 to 99.9 % by weight of methyl methacrylate repeat units and from 1.0 to 20.0 % by weight of alkyl acrylate repeat

units having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical, where the percentages by weight give a total of 100.0 % by weight.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The core-shell particle according to Claim 1, wherein the first shell ~~encompasses~~ comprises, based in each case on its total weight,

- E-1) from 90.0 to 97.9 % by weight of alkyl acrylate repeat units having from 3 to 8 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical and/or alkyl methacrylate repeat units having from 7 to 14 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical,
- E-2) from 0.1 to 2.0 % by weight of crosslinking repeat units and
- F) from 2.0 to 8.0 % by weight of styrenic repeat units of ~~the general~~ formula (I), where the percentages by weight give a total of 100.0 % by weight.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The core-shell particle according to Claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the alkyl acrylate repeat units having from 3 to 8 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical and/or alkyl methacrylate repeat units having from 7 to 14 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical are butyl acrylate repeat units and/or dodecyl methacrylate repeat units.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The core-shell particle according to Claim 1, wherein the core-shell particle has a second shell which, based in each case on its total weight, ~~encompasses~~ comprises

- G) from 50.0 to 100.0 % by weight of alkyl methacrylate repeat units having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical,
- H) from 0.0 to 40.0 % by weight of alkyl acrylate repeat units having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical and
- I) from 0.0 to 8.0 % by weight of styrenic repeat units of ~~the general~~ formula (I),

where the percentages by weight give a total of 100.0 % by weight.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The core-shell particle according to Claim 1, wherein the core has a glass transition temperature of at least 30° C.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The core-shell particle according to Claim 1, wherein the core-shell particle has a second shell, which has a glass transition temperature of at least 30° C.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a core-shell particle according to Claim 1, ~~wherein a~~ which comprises:

polymerizing the monomers of each stage of said core, first shell and second shell under multistage emulsion polymerization conditions is carried out.

Claim 11. (Withdrawn) A moulding composition comprising, based in each case on its total weight:

- A) from 1.0 to 50.0 % by weight of at least one core-shell particle according to at least one of Claims 1 to 9;
- B) from 1.0 to 99.0 % by weight of at least one (meth)acrylic polymer,
- C) from 0.0 to 45 % by weight of styrene-acrylonitrile copolymers, and
- D) from 0.0 to 10.0 % by weight of other additives

where the percentages by weight give a total of 100.0 % by weight.

Claim 12. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The moulding composition according to Claim 11, wherein the at least one (meth)acrylic polymer ~~encompasses~~ comprises, based in each case on its total weight,

- a) from 50.0 to 100.0 % by weight of alkyl methacrylate repeat units having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical,
- b) from 0.0 to 40.0 % by weight of alkyl acrylate repeat units having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical and
- c) from 0.0 to 8.0 % by weight of styrenic repeat units of the general formula (I), where the percentages by weight give a total of 100.0 % by weight.

Claim 13. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The moulding composition according to Claim 11, wherein the moulding composition comprises styrene-acrylonitrile copolymers, each prepared where the styrene-acrylonitrile copolymers were obtained by polymerizing any mixture which is composed of
from 70 to 92 % by weight of styrene
from 8 to 30 % by weight of acrylonitrile and
from 0 to 22 % by weight of other comonomers, based in each case on the total weight of the monomers to be polymerized.

Claim 14. (Withdrawn) The moulding composition according to Claim 11, wherein the moulding composition comprises, based on its total weight, from 0.1 to 10.0 % by weight of another polymer whose weight-average molecular weight is higher by at least 10 % than that of the at least one (meth)acrylic polymer.

Application No. 10/539,509
Reply to Office Action of July 16, 2008

Claim 15. (Withdrawn) A moulding obtained from a moulding composition according to Claim 11.